

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Belview School
other names/site number Underwood School

2. Location

street & number Underwood Rd. near Akersville Rd. N/A ☐ not for publication
city or town Underwood ☒ vicinity
stat Tennessee code TN county Macon code 111 zip code 37083
e _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

- ☐ removed from the National
Register.

- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Belview School
Name of Property

Macon County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

1

structures

objects

2

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Education Related Properties of Macon
County, Tennessee

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

T-Plan School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1957

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Butrum, Leo

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Belview School
Name of Property

Macon County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre Galen Tenn-KY 320 SW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 590506 4052157
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Beadles
organization Tennessee Historical Commission date November, 2006
street & number 2941 Lebanon Rd telephone 615-532-1550
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37214

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Underwood Cemetery c/o Barney Wooten
street & number 6306 Akersville Road telephone 615-666-2276
city or town Lafayette state TN zip code 37083

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Belview School
Macon County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

Belview School is located several miles north of Lafayette (pop. 3885) in the unincorporated community of Underwood. It is an intact example of a rural two-teacher schoolhouse. Built in 1936, it retains its original weatherboard siding, banks of windows, beaded board interior, and blackboards. As seen in the "Education Related Resources of Macon County" Multiple Property Submission, the design of the school is consistent with other rural, one and two-teacher schools built throughout the county.

The school has its original metal roof, weatherboard siding, and concrete foundation. All the windows are original, although some are missing their panes of glass. On the exterior, original wood shutters hide the windows. The building has a side-gable metal roof with a projecting front-gable entrance bay. Exposed rafter ends are seen in the eaves. The interior has its original wall, floor, ceiling, and trim materials. The building also retains its original doors and windows.

The south facade has three bays. The central bay protrudes slightly and contains the main entrance. The original five-paneled wood door is surrounded by a plain wood surround. The entrance is flanked by two original six-over-six double-hung windows that are hidden behind wood shutters. A rectangular attic vent is located in the top portion of the gable field. The outer two bays each contain a paired set of six-over-six double-hung windows hidden by wood shutters.

The east and west elevations have the same features. Neither of these elevations has any doors or windows. Each has a rectangular attic vent at the top of the gable field.

The north elevation has two banks of four windows. The windows are original nine-over-nine double-hung sash and are hidden by original wood shutters. The windows have very simple wood surrounds.

The interior features its original wood floors, beaded board walls and ceilings, paneled wood doors, and blackboards. Immediately inside the front door is a rectangular entrance hall. The walls have vertical beaded board wainscoting. Above the wainscoting the walls are covered with horizontal beaded board. A simple piece of wood trim runs along the top of the wainscoting. The south wall has two six-over-six windows flanking the five-paneled exterior door. The north wall has two five-paneled doors that lead to the classroom.

The classroom is divided into two spaces by an open partition wall that runs down the middle of the building. The classroom has vertical beaded board wainscoting. The ceiling and walls above the wainscoting are also of beaded board. The floor is wood with some linoleum flooring on the east half of the room. The east wall has original blackboards that run the entire length of the wall. A shallow tray for holding chalk also runs the length of the wall. The north wall displays banks of nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows. Four windows are visible in the east half of the room and three windows are visible in the west half. The windows are set in simple wood surrounds.

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Belview School
Macon County, Tennessee

Centered in the north wall is a brick chimney formerly used by a heating stove. The chimney is no longer in use. The west wall is different from the other walls in the classroom. The lower portion of the wall is horizontal beaded board. The upper portion is finished with dry wall. Located in the south third of the wall, a small rectangular opening with a hinged door acts as a pass through to the former kitchen. The south wall has five doorways with original five-paneled doors. The westernmost door leads to a cloakroom. The two easternmost doors both lead to another cloakroom. The remaining two doors lead to the entrance hall. Small blackboards are located between these doorways. A small built-in cabinet with paired eight-pane doors is located at the east end of the south wall.

Unlike the other rooms the east cloakroom does not have vertical board wainscoting. However the lower portion of the walls is painted a different color than the top portion to give the appearance of a wainscot. The south wall has paired six-over-six double-hung sash. On the north wall the back of the classroom's built-in cabinet protrudes slightly into the room.

The west cloakroom is similar in features to the east cloakroom. It does not have wainscoting, rather the lower portion of the walls is painted a different color than the upper portion. Paired six-over-six double-hung windows are on the south wall. The west wall has an original paneled door that leads to a small closet. The closet has beaded board walls and simple wood shelves on its south wall.

A door on the north wall of the west cloakroom leads to the former kitchen. The former kitchen has vertical beaded board on the north, west and south walls. The east wall has horizontal beaded board on the lower portion of the wall while the upper portion is dry wall. A small rectangular opening that acts as a pass-through to the classroom is located in the southern third of the wall. A small cabinet is attached to the wall just north of the pass-through opening. A nine-over-nine double-hung window is on the east edge of the north wall.

West of the school is a rectangular concrete block structure with a flat roof built to shelter the hand dug well. The well was dug in 1936, at the same time as the school's construction. An opening on the north façade provides access to the interior of the structure. There are no other windows or doors.

The area around the school is very rural. A cemetery is directly east of the school and a few scattered houses are located to the west and south. The school retains the majority of its original materials and has a high level of integrity.

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Section number 8 Page 3 Belview School
Macon County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

Belview School is being nominated under criterion C for its local significance in architecture. The school building, constructed in 1936, is an excellent and intact example of a rural schoolhouse whose design is based on standardized plans. It features original weatherboard siding, large banks of windows, original beadboard interior surfaces, and original chalkboards. Belview School is a good example of a rural two-teacher schoolhouse built before school consolidation in Macon County. The property meets the registration requirements of the "Education Related Properties of Macon County" Multiple Property Submission.

Belview School was originally organized and located in a building nearby on Puncheon Creek Road. It is not known exactly when it was organized, but the school was definitely in place by the 1890s when a picture was taken of the original building. The school was named for Mr. Belview who came from Guthrie, Kentucky to be the first teacher in the original schoolhouse. This first schoolhouse was later dismantled and the building materials were used to build a local residence. Then in 1936 the Macon County School System purchased property on which the current building stands. The current Belview School was built by local builder Leo Butrum in the same year. The first teacher in the new school was Lewis Bandy who taught grades one through eight. Belview continued to operate as an active school until c. 1959 when it closed due to consolidation of public schools in Macon County. Since its closing the school has been used as a meeting place for local residents. A reunion of former students is held annually at the school.

The basic design of the school is based on standardized plans that were widely available in the first half of the twentieth century. Standardized plan book designs for schools became increasingly popular in the first few decades of the twentieth century. Several states began to design and distribute plan books. In 1907 the Tennessee Department of Education published its first set of standardized school plans. This plan book was distributed to school officials across the state. Designed by the architectural firm of Adams & Alsup, these plans recognized the need to build schools that better addressed sanitation, use of space and aesthetics. Plans found in this book were used for several rural schools in Macon County, including Clines School, the first Enon School, and Sycamore Valley School.¹

An updated set of plans was published by the Department of Education in 1928. George Mahan, an architect from Memphis, designed these plans. The plans were created as part of statewide building fund whose purpose was to update and replace outdated and neglected schools with special emphasis to be placed on the poorer communities in the state. In addition to fifteen different plans of school buildings ranging from single teacher schools to seven teacher schools, the 1928 plan book also included plans for a privy and two school site plans. These plan books also gave guidelines for preferred locations and materials of the schools.

¹ "Education Related Properties of Macon County, Tennessee", Multiple Property Submission, 1993. pg. E-12.

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Macon County, Tennessee

Another set of standardized plans was widely circulated by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. In 1915 the foundation released a pamphlet that contained designs for rural schools and related buildings. Then, beginning in 1920, more designs were created for a variety of school sizes. These designs were created by S.L. Smith who worked from the Rosenwald Foundation office in Nashville. These new designs were published in the book *Community School Plans* in 1924. Like other standardized plans, the Rosenwald designs were concerned with providing rural areas with schools that provided a high level of sanitation, lighting, ventilation, and aesthetics. Rosenwald plans featured large banks of windows for increased lighting and ventilation, and also had an open interior space for use as a community meeting space. Large banks of windows were to be placed on one side of the classroom in order to have natural light coming from a single direction and reduce glare and eyestrain.² Rosenwald's emphasis on building quality, cost efficient schools, and the wide availability of the plan books to local builders made their standardized plans popular for rural schools that did not receive Rosenwald funds.

Even though it is not a Rosenwald School, Belview has striking similarities to the Rosenwald Two Teacher Plan Number Twenty that was included in the 1924 book. The biggest difference between the two is that the plan has two entrances flanking a central front gable section, and Belview has one central entrance located in the front gable end. The side gable orientation with a front facing cross gable, large banks of windows on the rear elevation, and plain side elevations are major shared characteristics of Belview and the Rosenwald plan. The center partition of the main classroom space was designed to provide two distinct classroom spaces while also providing a single large interior space for community meetings and gatherings.

Macon County has several rural schools whose designs were based on standardized school plans. Galen Elementary School (NR 2/22/1993) is a variation of plan 3-B from the 1928 state plan book, and Clines School, Sycamore Valley School, and Gumwood School were all variations of "Design No. 1-A of a Model One-Room School" from the 1907 state plan book.

Belview School retains a high degree of integrity. Even though the school has been a victim of repeated vandalism it continues to retain the majority of its historic materials throughout the exterior and interior.

² "Rosenwald School Buildings", www.rosenwaldschools.com, web site accessed 09/08/06.

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Belview School
Macon County, Tennessee

Bibliography

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"Building Plans for Rural School Houses". Tennessee State Department of Education, 1928.

"Designs and Specifications For Public School Buildings". Tennessee State Department of Public Instruction, 1907.

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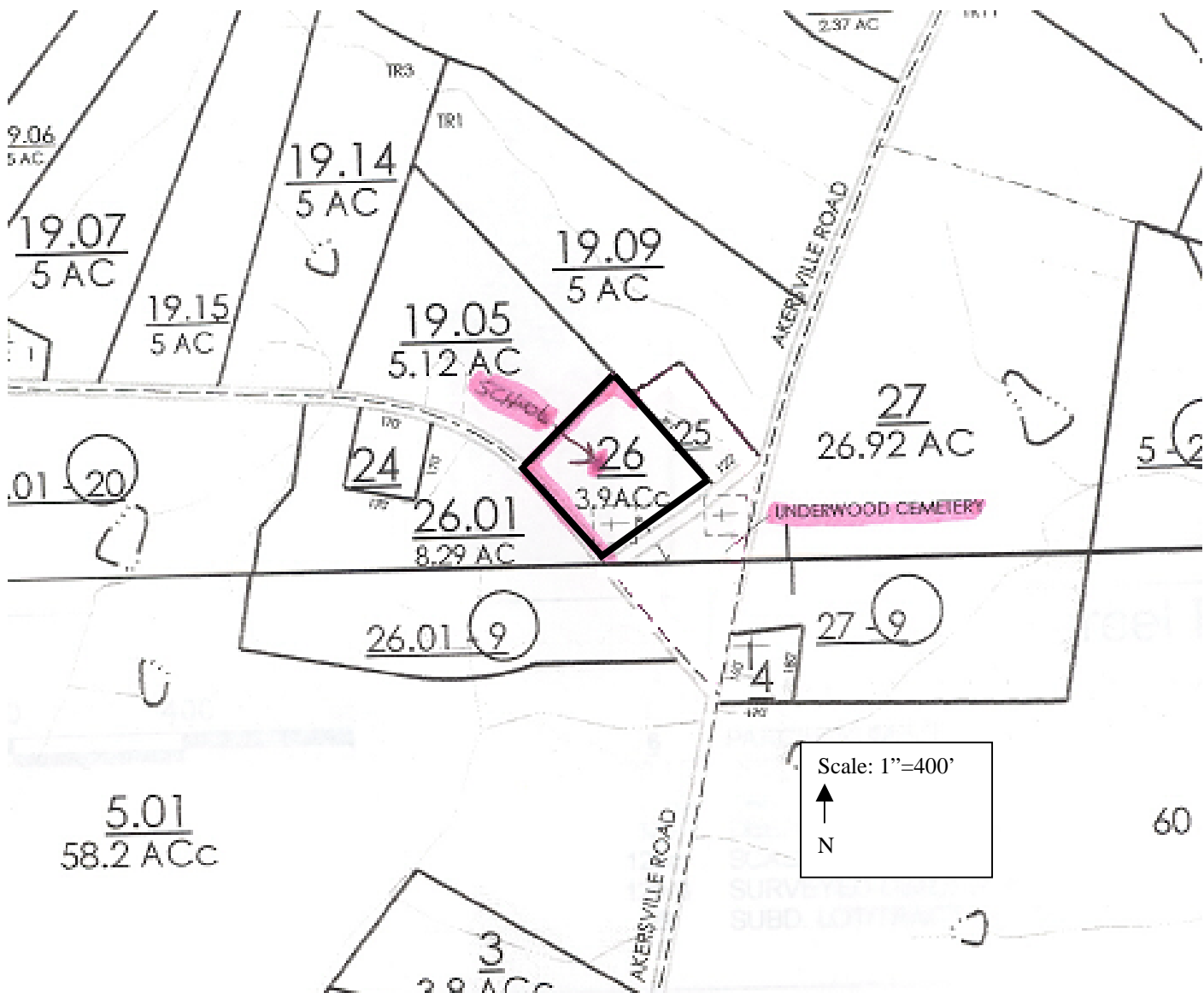
www.Rosenwaldplans.org, web site accessed 9/08/06.

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Macon County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated property is the northwestern half of parcel 026.00 found on Macon County tax map 009. This parcel also has a cemetery which is not included in the nominated boundary. The map scale is 1"= 400' and is the only available map for this area.



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Belview School
Macon County, Tennessee

Photographs

Belview School
Macon County, TN
Photographs taken by Randy Williams, 2006.

1 of 14
South façade, photographer facing north.

2 of 14
South façade and west elevation, photographer facing northeast.

3 of 14
North elevation, photographer facing south.

4 of 14
North and east elevations, photographer facing southwest.

5 of 14
South façade and east elevation, photographer facing northwest.

6 of 14
South facade, photographer facing northwest.

7 of 14
Well house, photographer facing south.

8 of 14
Interior of entrance hall, photographer facing east.

9 of 14
Interior of entrance hall, photographer facing north.

10 of 14
Interior of classroom, photographer facing west.

11 of 14
Interior of classroom, photographer facing south.

12 of 14

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Interior of classroom, photographer facing north.

13 of 14

Interior of classroom, photographer facing southwest.

14 of 14

Interior of kitchen, photographer facing north.